

MAUDE ADAMS WILL BECOME A NUN, BROADWAY RUMOR INSISTS, FOLLOWING HER GIFT OF LONG ISLAND ESTATE TO SISTERHOOD

CHARMING ACTRESS WHO DONATED HOME LIVES IN RETIREMENT

Friends Declare Her Silence About the Future Is Indicative of Her Intention of Joining the Sisterhood to Whom She Gave Her \$130,000 Long Island Estate—Precedent for Such a Step.

By ELIZABETH SHIELDS

It is the truth in the report, still persisting along the Rialto, that Maude Adams will become a nun.

Despite various denials that the great American actress has adopted the Catholic faith, it is being said that the ascetic little Keeper of Silence, who has brought happiness to thousands by her work on the stage, now plans to bring those same thousands peace through offering expiation for their sins within cloister and cell of the Eternal Silence.

Perhaps it is significant that there has been neither denial nor affirmation from Miss Adams herself.

WILL PROCEED QUIETLY.

If she is to resign the shining position she now graces with sweetly potent personality to become an indistinguishable entity in a line of little, veiled figures, she probably will proceed as quietly as she went about giving her \$130,000 Long Island estate to the Sisterhood of the Cenacle of St. Regis.

That gift was managed so unostentatiously that not even those closely associated with stagehand's Peter Pan, among them the Frohman agency, so much as suspected that she contemplated separating herself from "Sandy Girth" until announcement was made through the newspapers.

A leading member of the theatrical profession had this to say concerning the rumored retirement of Miss Adams.

"It is being said that she was received into the Catholic Church in 1901, at the time she temporarily left the stage because of illness. She traveled through Europe and Egypt and then went to France, where she entered the Convent of the Cenacle, to remain for some time.

SATISFIED WITH THE LIFE.

Stage people are saying that Miss Adams has resided in the New York convent during nearly all visits paid to this city within the last three years. They believe such circumstances indicate more than casual satisfaction with serenity of the life.

"Furthermore, Miss Adams is

generally regarded as half actress and half religious. Asceticism is the keynote of her life. Of course, her choice of a lonely way is due partly to her frailness. Still we believe she prefers spiritual isolation to the usual manner of existence."

Another member of the profession pointed out that if this feminine apex of the famous stage triangle which included James M. Barrie and Charles Frohman should take the veil her renunciation would not be without precedent among actresses.

STORY OF TWO DECADES AGO. Gathering sheen of romance through twenty years there still is told the story which startled the theatergoing public two decades ago of Grace Raven.

Called the most beautiful woman on the American stage, young, talented, and at the beginning of brilliant success, she left it all for the loneliness and rigid simplicity of the Convent of the Good Shepherd at Carthage, near Cincinnati.

When Miss Raven was graduated from the convent at the age of sixteen, she said:

"I am going on the stage. My mother and father are poor. They are growing old, and I must provide for them while they live. When I have done that I will ask the good sisters to number me among them."

For six years she successfully played leading parts in "Monte Cristo," and other productions in which James O'Neill was the star. During her long period of playing in this country and abroad, every morning saw her in attendance at mass.

MADE WORLD FAREWELL.

After her parents died she said farewell to the world:

"I came from the convent to serve my father and mother. Now I will return to the convent to serve my God."

The house of Our Lady of the Cenacle rises high above the Hudson where the lordly river broadens far uptown. It is founded upon memory of the "Upper Chamber" where Christ ate the last supper with the Apostles, and where the bread and wine were spoken of as the sacred body and blood.

Here it was that the Spirit of

MAUDE ADAMS recently bestowed this \$130,000 home at Lake Ronkonkoma, Long Island, on the Gentle Sisters of Our Lady of Cenacle. It is now rumored on Broadway that she is to enter the sisters' convent. Miss Adams is shown below.



the Holy Ghost descended upon the disciples in the tongues of fire and sent them forth to spread the new Christian doctrine.

St. Regis, a Jesuit missionary, was made patron saint of the order, which is bound to provide a place of seclusion for religious devotion and rest and for the unhappy who find it necessary to withdraw for a time from the hurry and distractions of the world.

CHARM OF THE SISTERHOOD.

The sisterhood is composed mostly of French women and, like the "Blue Nuns" of the Order of St. Marie Reparatrice, they possess the culture and refinement usually associated with women of the social world. As part of their work is teaching, they are remarkably well educated. Their charm never is so apparent as when a group of five or six flutter into the chapel, like silent doves, to make a low genuflection before the altar, holding their veils outspread at either side.

These, then, are the gentle beings with whom would be associated the elusive figure of the stage if she were to forsake her already none too mundane interests to become the bride of heaven.

ELEVEN NOVICES NOW.

Even as she entered the convent upon the first occasion, she might enter for her last, long retreat at the beginning of May, month held sacred to Mary, bright spirit of humility in women.

There first would be a novitiate, a probationary period of the white veil. There now are eleven novices in the Convent of the Cenacle. Eventually would come a day when renunciation must be complete. While voices chanted the



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stately measures of solemn high mass, the one-time portray of Lady Babble and of the poor little east side of London Cinderella

would be led to the altar rail and the black veil awaiting her there. Vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and the voice of the priest:

"This act which now is performed before God's altar is equal in merit to two baptisms and to martyrdom!"

Finally the awful moment of the elevation and the air filled, seemingly, with the rushing of angels' wings: Afterward the black veil descending upon the bowed head of her who had made the great surrender!

Is the little mysterious woman who personally, rather than through the creature of her imagination, stands for perpetual youth, spring, sunshine, and joy and children old and young, planning this terrific gesture?

SECLUDED IN HER HOME.

At her home in Schenectady she remains secluded, wrapped by the silence—almost the secrecy—which has shut her away almost from the time she came to New York more than thirty years ago, a so-called, poorly-dressed girl and managed to find a place with Sothern's company.

It is the same silence which almost was broken on a night in May, 1915, when word was brought to her in the theater at Kansas City, where she was playing in "Quality Street" that her benefactor and old friend, Charles Frohman, had perished with the sinking of the Lusitania.

"Surely she will speak now," said the world.

But the silence, undisturbed, at first caused many to wonder if the artist so versed in simulating human moods had no emotions of her own. Later, when it was told how she went through that night's performance with tear-stained eyes, and with voice continually breaking, there sprang up a new admiration for her thoroughbred spirit.

SHE SETTLED QUESTION.

It was upon this occasion that she settled the much discussed question of her marriage to Mr. Frohman by allowing her manager to deny that such ever had existed.

Miss Adams is probably the only actress within all the history of the stage who never has been interviewed by a member of the press. Nor has she ever resorted to any action which might bring her name before the public, however indirectly, in a manner not connected with her work.

Apparently the only excursion outside of her seclusion was upon the occasion, four years ago, when she broke a second lifelong rule, that of playing on Sunday, to give a performance of "A Kiss for Cinderella" for the soldiers at Camp Lewis, outside Seattle.

It is said that Frohman himself was responsible for her inaccessibility. At the time she began laying the foundations of her success here, soon after her arrival from the Pacific Coast where she played in stock with her mother, Annie Adams Kiskadden—she felt

PETER PAN OF STAGE MAKES CONVENT HOME WHILE VISITING CITY

Miss Adams Always Is a Welcome Visitor at New York House of Sisterhood of Cenacle of St. Regis, Where She Resides When in Manhattan—Actor Declares She Was Received Into Church in 1901.

normal interest in the public and publicity.

But Mr. Frohman, it is said, insisted that the public would find the Maude Adams if it were permitted no knowledge of the Maude Adams of real life. Illusion, he argued, would be preserved by silence and mystery.

Accordingly Miss Adams no longer made speeches in response to curtain calls; she developed the attitude, at least, of almost morbid fear of being quoted; she never was seen about; she sequestered herself in a mysterious town house East Forty-first street and established summer residences at Onteora, N. Y., and at Lake Ron-

konkoma, the Long Island estate just donated to the Cenacle.

It was in 1918, while playing in Atlanta, Ga., that she left the stage after a severe attack of influenza. The excessive mental depression which often follows this malady is well known. It is quite possible that this may have driven the gentle, sensitive woman into a convent of the order of nuns with whom she found repose many years before under somewhat similar circumstances.

Perhaps that repose means more to her now than worldly triumph. Surely with the sisters of the Cenacle she would be able to enjoy the silence and the obliteration of Maude Adams, the person, which she has seemed to desire.

New French Law Permits Exporting of Works of Art

PARIS, Feb. 4.

Of interest to American collectors and dealers is the new French law on the exportation of works of art which replaces the 1920 law, much criticized, forbidding such exportation. As a result of the 1920 law art auctions in Paris became deserted by American dealers, many of whom moved their offices to Brussels and London, and Paris lost its reputation as center of the art-auction world, held since the Second Empire. The new law is calculated to remedy this state of affairs.

In substance the new legislation is as follows:

Article 30. The law of August 31, 1920, forbidding the exportation abroad of objects of art is hereby abrogated.

Article 31. Excluded from the expropriation provided in Article 72 of the law of June 25, 1920, and subject therefore to the tax of 10 per cent edicted by Articles 59 and 63 of that law, affairs applying to the sales by antiquaries on their own account of curiosities, antiques, old books, furniture and objects of collection, also sales of paintings, pastels, designs, original sculpture, engravings and old stamps.

Will continue to benefit from expropriation: collections of natural

history, paintings, aquarelles, designs, pastels, original sculpture and engravings by artists living or dead less than twenty years.

Article 37. In case of public sale of curiosities, antiques, paintings, etc., 1 per cent on the value will be levied to the profit of the fund for historical monuments.

Article 38. The State may exercise pre-emption on all art sales. The law, therefore, re-establishes the liberty of exportation of objects of art and suppresses the 15, 20 and 25 per cent taxes under the old law.

On the other hand, the tax of 10 per cent on business transactions which hitherto was not applied to art sales now is applied to them.

Thus paintings, sculpture, engravings and other works of art which Americans have been unable to purchase and bring home with them are now accorded freedom of exportation, but the French government reserves to itself the right to buy any object exported for sale if it so desires. Thus the French museums are protected.

The new law marks the triumph of eighteen months' endeavor by Edouard Jonas, president of the Syndicate of Curiosities and Fine Arts, powerfully aided by Duvoion Brothers, Jacques Seligman and other large American dealers.

CRIPPLING US IN NAVAL BASES MAY WRECK ARMS PARLEY, SAYS EXPERT WHO POINTS OUT GREATEST FLAW IN CONFERENCE

AMERICAN FLEET PUT AT GREAT HANDICAP BY ISOLATED STATIONS

Capt. George A. Schreiner Insists British and Japanese Fleets Are Always Within Sailing Distances of Their Pacific Stations—Coast Artillery That Could Not Convert Any Point Into Naval Base in Three Weeks Is Useless.

By Capt. Geo. A. Schreiner.

BEING a most complacent group of gentlemen, the American delegation to the Washington Conference had by December 15 accepted the following conditions regarding naval bases in the Pacific:

"It is agreed that with respect to fortifications and naval bases, in the Pacific region, including Hongkong, the status quo shall be maintained; that is, that there shall be no increase in these fortifications and naval bases except that this restriction shall not apply to the Hawaiian Islands, Australia, New Zealand and the islands composing Japan proper, or, of course, to the coasts of the United States and Canada, as to which the respective Powers retain their entire freedom."

The above may be called the preamble to the preliminary agreement reached in regard to capital ships. The Japanese had gained a point in the retention of the "Mitsui," and the very agreeable American delegation had also gained a point in inducing the Conference not to insist on the scrap-

ping of the naval station on Guam.

Much fuss had been made about Guam in the Conference. The Japanese could not see why the United States wanted that naval base. In the future all was to be harmony between the four Powers that were about to enter into a League of the Pacific. Guam, therefore, seemed to be utterly out of place.

As usual, the Japanese had the backing of their British friends. However, it did occur to the American delegation finally that scrapping Guam might be considered going a little too far. So Guam stayed on the map.

The question of naval bases may yet break the back of the conference, even before the Senate looks at the treaties about to emanate from the star chamber in the Pan-American building. It is beginning to seem a little bit unreasonable to set up such a status quo as is proposed above.

Great Britain has fifteen main naval bases, and twenty-eight others hardly less important. Japan has sixteen naval bases whose fortifications are so laid

out that they form in reality a steel wall about the Japanese home islands, and Tokio now proposes to include the island of Bonin in the scheme.

The United States has nine navy yards, nine naval stations, one naval operating base and one naval base; a total of twenty points at which the navy may find fuel, stores and dockage.

This may be expressed as a ratio of 43-16-20.

The British bases encircle the globe like a belt. The Japanese bases are grouped very closely by reason of the small territory they encompass, while the United States bases are strung over a coastline of 12,000 miles, and flung as far as the Philippines.

BRITAIN'S GREAT BASES.

On the road from England to the Pacific lie for the support of the British fleet-of-war the following naval bases: Gibraltar, Malta, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Madras, Rangoon, Karachi, Calcutta, Colombo, Singapore, Hongkong, and Wei-hai-wei. Should the British fleet decide to sail around the Cape of Good Hope, it would find protection and supplies at the following: Freetown (Sierra Leone), Capetown, Zanzibar, Der-es-Salaam, and Mauritius, or eighteen bases altogether.

The Japanese would have the benefit of every one of their sixteen home naval bases, while the American fleet, after leaving the Pacific coast, would depend upon the naval bases in Hawaii, Guam, Cavite and Olongapo, P. I., and Tutuila, Samoa, or five altogether, scattered widely apart over lines of communication about 9,000 miles long.

The British fleet going into the Pacific would have a naval base constantly within easy steaming distance. The Japanese bases are

so close together that they can be compared to spoke sockets in the hub of a wheel. But the distances between the American bases are so great as to almost tax to the limit the bunker capacity of any man-of-war.

U. S. FLEET HANDICAPPED.

A defeated British or Japanese squadron could take refuge in a nearby naval base, while an unlucky American fleet would have no refuge at all with the scene of action properly selected by the enemy.

To say, then, that all the odds are against the American fleet in the Pacific is putting it mildly. Yet the American conference have already accepted a status quo made for them by Great Britain and Japan, and that status quo is to be maintained, unless fear of what the United States Senate may do should persuade the conference to revise its plans.

Much wiggling has been done by the conference in interpreting terms. But it is hardly possible that the terms quoted can be construed into meaning something else when they are examined. There is to be "no increase in these fortifications and naval bases," says the preliminary draft.

If words have any meaning at all, these words would mean that the United States may not establish even so much as another coast battery in the Philippines Islands or elsewhere in the region included.

BASES EASILY BUILT.

There has been open talk about the conference to the effect of Uncle Sam having abdicated in the Pacific. The conference of the lesser powers laugh about it, and think it the only humorous feature of the parley.

Meanwhile, the American delegation and its naval experts con-

sider all such matters gravely, thoroughly and with great deliberateness. The American delegation has passed under the impression that it takes years to build coast fortifications and establish naval bases, and that from this angle we and the promised status quo are safe.

Of course, the British and Japanese naval and artillery experts could tell a different story. But it is not in their interest to do so.

The naval experts who advise the American delegation will be surprised to learn that any group of military engineers and artillery officers worth their salt can convert any point into a coast fortification, or even a naval base, in the time required to set concrete.

DARDANELLES LESSON.

For their guidance, here is how the Germans and Turks re-enforced the "fortifications" along the Dardanelles and in the waters of Smyrna in Asia Minor.

The British had a naval mission in Turkey at the outbreak of the European war. The mission was headed by Admiral Limpus, assisted by a large staff of able officers. The mission was in charge not only of the Turkish navy, but of all Turkish coast fortifications as well.

When the Turkish government decided to enter the war on the side of the Central Powers against the Entente, Admiral Limpus and his officers were dismissed. Before they went they did a great deal of damage to the Turkish fleet by smashing all the delicate parts of the machinery, removing every gun sight, and what not.

In addition they put out of reach whatever could be carried easily out of a coast battery. As a crowning effort they put the shore torpedo battery at Killid-Bahr out of commission,

But that was not the worst of it. The British knew to a dot the location, range and bore of every gun; how much ammunition there was, and the nature of the protecting works.

The Germans then had their hands full when they took over the coast defense system of the Dardanelles. Turkey lacked guns and other materials needed to make a strictly "modern" job of the necessary rearming.

The British and French fleets made their first demonstration against Killid-Bahr and Kum Kale on November 30, a few days after Turkey had gone to war. The Allies did not feel like risking many ships. They took good care to stay out of range of the coast guns, and after a few hours' work withdrew, though not without causing a magazine to blow up in Killid-Bahr.

Fervent activity set in at the Dardanelles. First of all most of the heavy pieces, 28-centimeter guns, were shifted to other places.

DECREPIET DEFENSES.

However, that did not improve anything in a very thorough manner. The old emplacements had to be used. Most of them had been laid down in 1835. They consisted of a stone barbettes, upon which the guns were mounted, casemates under the emplacements, in which the ammunition was stored, and the parapet in front.

The walls were of native limestone and to protect the battery a thick rampart, or parapet, was laid in front of the guns and over the casemate roof. There was no other protection, the entire barbettes being under the open sky.

Such were the batteries that met the fire of the Allied armada on March 18, 1915, consisting of eighteen line-ships and the super-dreadnought-cruiser "Queen Elizabeth." But when the sun sank on that fateful day, the French had

lost the "Bouvet," and the British, the "Irresistible" and "Ocean," while the "Queen Elizabeth" was ready to go to Malta, and was followed three days later, by a whole flock of crippled British and French line-ships.

The fact is that the Germans and Turks duplicated every coast battery along the Dardanelles in less than three weeks. This is no mere theory. It was done.

FORT ROSE LIKE MAGIC.

The site of "Fort" Dardanos was nothing but a bare hilltop when the British naval mission left Turkey.

Admiral Usedom Pashe and Martens Pashe decided to strengthen the Dardanelles defenses with a battery put there. The fire field was excellent and the Anatolian shore did not have batteries anyway. The first problem was to get the guns.

Early in August the small German cruiser Breslau and the battle cruiser Goeben had sought refuge in the Dardanelles, being hard pressed by the allied fleet. As a man-of-war the Breslau was not of much value, so her guns went to arm "Fort Dardanos."

FINISHED IN 3 WEEKS.

The fort was completed in less than three weeks. A concrete barbettes was put down even with the ground of the hilltop. Upon this the five 15-centimeter guns of the Breslau were set. No parapet was erected. The guns were protected by armor of half-turret shape and were set far apart to give clearance for the shells of the allied ships.

Back of the guns a communication trench was dug and reinforced by heavy timbering. At the foot of the trench was the magazine, while at the south end was the fire control station.

That was all there was to "Fort Dardanos."

Throughout the entire series of bombardments, from February 26 to March 25, 1915, only two of the guns were ever out of action and then only for a few hours.

SANK BRITISH SEA QUEENS.

All this time the "Fort" did well. It sank the "Irresistible" by literally slicing her to bits. Her guns being small, it took sixteen shells to do what with large guns would have taken at best four or five good hits.

An interesting feature was that the allied gunners made Dardanos a special target. They never succeeded in ranging it, but there is no doubt that in time the British and French could have shot the hill from under the fort. The turrets could not be hit, because they stood on the skyline—about the worst target a seagoing gun pointer can have.

It will be interesting to see whether in the list of this it will be possible to preserve the status quo in fortifications and naval bases in the Pacific. The idea is too ludicrous to be entertained so long as guns can be made beforehand and the other materials assembled—enough cement, some crushed rock and a little sand, so plentiful along all coasts.

BASE ONLY 3-WEEK JOB.

Those who know the story of the Dardanelles campaign of 1915—and none know it better than the British—must smile when they see the American delegation gravely considering what to do as to naval bases and fortifications. The coast artillery that could not convert a point into a good naval base within three weeks ought to be taken from the books.